



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 07/12/2011

Tri-Community Working Group Meeting Minutes -- 7/12/2011

The Tuesday, July 12, 2011 meeting of the Tri-Community Working Group for Flooding Issues was held at 6:00 pm, in the second-floor meeting room of Arlington Town Hall.

Attending:

Will Brownsberger
 Wayne Chouinard
 Jim Decoulos
 Roger Frymire
 Richard Lacroix
 Stephen Revilak
 Clarissa Rowe
 Mike Santoro
 Annie Thompson
 Catherine Daly-Woodbury

Approval of May 10th Meeting Minutes

The May 10, 2011 meeting minutes were approved.

Discussion of Rep. Brownsberger's meeting with DCR Commissioner Lambert on June 20th

Will Brownsberger provided a summary of his June 20th meeting with DCR commissioner Ed Lambert. Rep. Brownsberger has published a set of meeting notes here: <http://willbrownsberger.com/index.php/archives/8145>.

Mystic Lakes Dam. The Upper Mystic Lake is approximately 10-15 feet higher than the Lower Mystic Lake. The Mystic Lakes dam was built during the civil war era; DCR identified these dam improvements as a priority project, and went ahead with the reconstruction.

Winchester's Aberjona project is likely to increase water flow into the Mystic Lakes. The dam improvements should provide additional capacity for this water flow. The new dam allows water levels to be dropped up to two feet in advance of large storms. (It would take about two days to drop the water level this much.)

Amelia Earhart Dam. The DCR is beginning a feasibility study to examine the effects of adding a fourth pump to the Amelia Earhart dam. The additional pump may provide flood control benefit, if there is not too much upstream constriction. There are sections of the Mystic River with constricted flow, and these areas may require dredging in order to see benefit from the additional pumping capacity. The fourth pump will provide important redundancy; during large storms, all three pumps are typically run. The pumps are a diesel powered, and should not be affected by an electrical outage.

Craddock Bridge. The Craddock Bridge project has moved back and forth between Mass. Highway and DCR; now, Mass. Highway has taken ownership. This project will increase Mystic River flow underneath Craddock bridge, address general bridge deterioration, and improve traffic flow in the Medford Square area.

Blair Pond Dredging. In September 2010, the Blair Pond dredging project was scheduled to go out to bid in the following few weeks. DCR gave the same report this year. Representative Brownsberger will stay in touch with the DCR regarding the progress of the Blair Pond.

Alewife Brook Dredging. Alewife Brook is a low priority for DCR (other flood control projects are considered higher priority). At present, there is no timeline for Alewife Brook dredging, and we may have to wait a few years before revisiting the idea.

Proposed Meeting Dates

The next Tri-Community meetings are proposed for:

- ñ Tuesday, September 13th (Labor Day is September 5th)
- ñ Tuesday, November 8th (Veterans Day is Friday, November 11th)

Steve Kaiser's Rain Data

The group discussed Steve Kaiser's analysis of rain data. The most prominent finding: in the last fifty years, the amount of rainfall in a 100-year storm has increased by 28% (one-day rainfall).

Other Business

Spy Pond. Spy Pond was recently cited as having a high cyanobacteria count. Roger Frymire believes the citation was the result of an overcount. However, recent weather conditions have been conducive to algae blooms.

Flood Insurance. Steve Revilak reports that several Sunnyside Avenue residents had elevation surveys done, after negotiating a group rate with a land surveyor. Several homes were found to be above the 100-year base flood elevation, and these homeowners are filing letter of map amendment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.